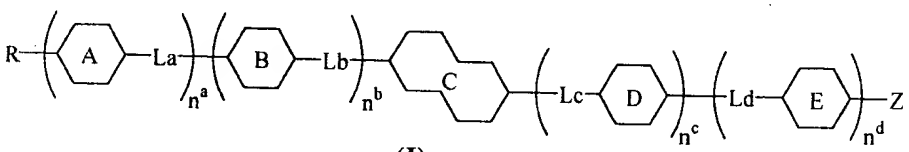
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims as follows:

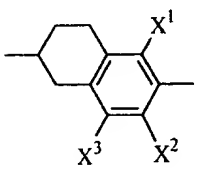
1. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative represented by a general formula (I)



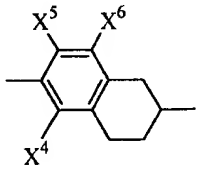
(I)

(wherein, R represents a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may incorporate a branched chain and may be substituted with 1 to 7 fluorine atoms or alkoxyl groups of 1 to 7 carbon atoms; linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld each represent independently a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, -CH=CH-, $-CH(CH_3)CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH(CH_3)CH(CH_3)$, $CF_2CF_2$, CF=CF, $CH_2O$, $OCH_2$, $OCH(CH_3)$, $CH(CH_3)O$, C≡C, $CF_2O$, $OCF_2$, COO, OCO, COS or SCO; Z represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, cyano group, cyanato group, trifluoromethoxy group or a difluoromethoxy group; ring A, ring B and ring D each represent independently a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a trans-decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a trans-1,3-dioxane-2,4-diyl group, or a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, a pyridine-2,5-diyl group, a pyrimidine-2,5-diyl group, a pyrazine-2,5-diyl group, a pyridazine-3,6-diyl group, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms; ring E represents independently a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be

substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, ring C represents either one of a general formula (IIa) and a general formula (IIb)




**(IIa)**




**(IIb)**

(wherein, $X^1$, $X^2$, $X^3$, $X^4$, $X^5$ and $X^6$ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a fluorine atom); and $n^a$, $n^b$, $n^c$ and $n^d$ each represent independently either 0 or 1;

although, in a case in which $n^c = 1$ and $n^d = 0$, ring D represents a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms and/or a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group, $n^a = n^c = n^d = 0$ and $n^b = 1$, or $n^b = n^c = n^d = 0$ and $n^a = 1$, ring A and ring B are 1,4-phenylene groups, La and Lb are single bonds, and ring C is said general formula (IIa), then at least one of $X^1$, $X^2$ and $X^3$ represents a fluorine atom;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group, $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$ and $n^d = 1$, or $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$ and $n^c = 1$, ring C and ring D are 1,4-phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are single bonds or -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIa), then at least one of $X^1$, $X^2$ and $X^3$ represents a fluorine atom;

in a case in which Z is a cyano group, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group, $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$ and $n^d = 1$, or $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$ and $n^c = 1$, ring C and ring D are 1,4-

phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are single bonds or -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIb), then at least one of $X^4$, $X^5$ and $X^6$ represents a fluorine atom;

in a case in which Z is a fluorine atom, R is an unsubstituted and saturated alkyl group or alkoxyl group, $n^a = n^b = n^c = 0$ and $n^d = 1$, or $n^a = n^b = n^d = 0$ and $n^c = 1$, ring C and ring D are 1,4-phenylene groups, Lc and Ld are -COO- linkages, and ring C is said general formula (IIb), then at least one of $X^4$, $X^5$ and $X^6$ represents a fluorine atom;

and in a case in which ring C is said general formula (IIb), at least one of $n^c$ and $n^d$ is 1).

4. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), either one of $n^a$ and $n^b$ is 0.

5. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), either one of $n^c$ and $n^d$ is 0.

6. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), $n^a = n^b = 0$.

7. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), $n^c = n^d = 0$.

8. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), at least one of $n^a$, $n^b$, $n^c$ and $n^d$ is 1.

9. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each selected independently from a group consisting of a single bond, $-CH_2CH_2-$, and $-C^{\circ}C$ .

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10. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each selected independently from a group consisting of a single bond and $CH_2CH_2$ .

11. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), said linkage groups La, Lb, Lc and Ld are each a single bond.

12. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), ring A, ring B and ring D are each independently selected from a group consisting of a trans-1,4-cyclohexylene group, a trans-decahydronaphthalene-2,6-diyl group, a trans-1,3-dioxane-2,4-diyl group, a 1,4-phenylene group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms, and a naphthalene-2,6-diyl group which may be substituted with one or two fluorine atoms.

13. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a fluorine atom.

14. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a cyano group.

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15. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), Z is a trifluoromethoxy group.

16. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), R is a saturated or unsaturated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may incorporate a branched chain and may be substituted with 1 to 7 fluorine atoms or alkoxyl groups of 1 to 7 carbon atoms.

17. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), R is a saturated or unsaturated straight chain alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

18. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), $X^3$, $X^4$ and $X^5$ in said formula (IIa) and said formula (IIb) are hydrogen atoms.

19. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), $X^2$ in said formula (IIa) is a hydrogen atom and $X^1$ is a fluorine atom.

20. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1, wherein in said general formula (I), $X^1$ in said formula (IIa) is a hydrogen atom and $X^2$ is a fluorine atom.

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21. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which shows liquid crystallinity.

22. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which shows a nematic phase.

23. (Amended) A tetrahydronaphthalene derivative according to claim 1 which upon addition to a nematic liquid crystal composition shows a nematic phase.

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27. (Amended) An active matrix driven liquid crystal display element utilizing a liquid crystal composition according to claim 25.